**Dear Parents,**

Baptism is an important milestone in the faith life of your children. Through Baptism your child becomes a member of God’s family, has their sins forgiven and begins a lifelong relationship with God and his Church which prepares them for eternal life with God in heaven. Through baptism your child receives gifts and graces from God, and when they’re older can receive the other Sacraments.

For young children who have not yet reached the age of reason (approx. 7 years old) parents speak on behalf of their children and make a promise before God to “bring them up in the practice of the Catholic faith”. For this reason, it is essential that at least one parent is Catholic, so that they can hand on their faith to their children. If no parent is Catholic but is interested in learning more about the journey towards Catholic faith, please contact the office and Fr Patrick would be happy to talk you through the journey of being received into the Church.

Older children (aged 8+) who have reached the age of reason are able to think, understand and accept the Catholic faith on their own. They are able to make their own promises. Older children will need be well prepared before receiving this important sacrament so they understand the promises they will swear before God and the Church. For more information about this programme, please see our Parish website or Parish Office for further details.

Godparents are chosen primarily for their commitment to the Catholic faith as they will be a source of encouragement, wisdom and guidance for their Godchildren throughout their lives. Two Godparents of different genders are normally chosen, and Godparents must be Catholic. It is possible to have one Godparent and one Christian Witness (baptized Christian).

Infant baptisms are generally scheduled on the Second Sunday of the Month at 11:30am, and one parent must attend a preparation meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Church. There are some exceptions – please see the list of dates below. At this meeting you will receive the candle and stole and guidelines for the donation offering. If there are special circumstances you are welcome to approach the parish office for consideration for other dates as we are able to schedule baptisms to be celebrated during the Mass at other times.

I look forward to meeting you and being a part of this important journey of faith for your children

Fr Patrick

**2024 Infant Baptism Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2024 Monthly Schedule | Date for Preparation meetings – 7pm Thursdays held in Church | Date for Baptisms – 11:30am Sundays held in Church |
|  |  |  |
| March | 7th March | 10th March |
| April (Easter) | 11th April | 14th April |
| May | 2nd May | 12th May |
| June | 6th June | 9th June |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Your privacy is important to us**

1. The Parish collects personal information, including sensitive information about members of the faithful. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable it to administer the sacraments and pastoral care to the faithful, and often to children of the faithful. Information may be required to allow the Parish to meet some of its legal obligations, provide care for the child while under supervision and discharge its duty of care. If you reside in the Parish or otherwise continue to use its services, the information may also be used to solicit donations and/or request your services as a volunteer from time to time.
2. The Parish from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative purposes. This includes other Parishes, the diocese, medical practitioners and people providing services to the school including volunteers.
3. If we do not obtain the information requested, we may not be able to administer the sacraments.
4. Personal information collected from children is disclosed to their parents or guardians. Parents or guardians may seek access to personal information collected about them and their son/daughter by contacting the Parish on 9787 7777.
5. Adults may also seek access to information collected about them in the same manner.
6. As the Parish is largely reliant upon locally raised funds and local effort for its continuation, information received from those who reside in the parish or avail themselves of its services may be used to solicit donations and other forms of support from them. On occasions it uses the resources of the Archdiocese to support this process and in the course of this, information is made available to those people. We will not disclose your personal information to other third parties for other fundraising purposes without your consent

Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More Mount Eliza

Application for Infant Baptism

Please include a copy of your child’s birth certificate you can also email this to the Parish Office before the baptism

# Child’s Surname:

Christian Name(s):

# Date of Birth (must be under 7 years old): Boy/Girl (circle one)

PLACE OF BIRTH: ……………………………………………………………

Attended Baptism Prep (date):

Date & Time of Baptism:

Father’s Full Name:

 Religion:

Mother’s Full name:

 Religion:

Mother’s Maiden Name:

# Address:

# Phone:

# Email:

### Godparents (please include religion, if known, for each). One Godparent must be Catholic, the other may be either baptised Christian or a Catholic

 ……………… Religion: Catholic

…………………………………………….Religion: Catholic/ Christian (circle)

Other Children (including date of birth & religion):

## Special Requests: